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SELLING DISEASED PORK FOR FOOD.

JUDICIAL DECISION HOLDING DEALER LIABLE FOR DAMAGES CAUSED BY ILLNESS RESULTING FROM EATING PORK INFECTED WITH TRICHINÆ.

The Supreme Court of New York has affirmed a judgment against a dealer for \$1,000 damages for illness caused by eating pork infected with trichinæ. The pork had been inspected, and it bore the United States Government stamp.

Judge Howard, in the opinion, stated his belief that the old rule of law to the effect that "there is an implied warranty on the part of the vendor of foodstuffs that goods sold for immediate consumption are fit and wholesome" is a doctrine not suitable to modern conditions, but the court regarded the law as settled in the State of New York, and felt bound to adhere to the rule, though it was intimated that if an appeal is taken the court of appeals might reverse the decision. The opinion is published in full in this issue of the Public Health Reports, page 1793.

PORK AND TRICHINÆ.

THE NEED FOR THE THOROUGH COOKING OF FRESH PORK BEFORE IT IS EATEN.

According to results of microscopic examination by the United States Department of Agriculture, more than 14 out of every 1,000 hogs slaughtered in this country contain the parasite known as *Trichinella spiralis*, and more than 25 out of every 1,000 of the hogs contain either this worm or bodies resembling the cysts of this worm.

If taken alive into the human body, this parasite, known ordinarily as trichina, is capable of producing a disease known as trichinosis, and statistics of 14,820 cases in man show that 5.6 per cent were fatal. But if the worms are killed by thoroughly cooking the pork they will not produce this disease. Hence, if the meat is thoroughly cooked the consumer need have no fear of contracting trichinosis.

The meat inspection conducted under the Federal laws, and under the regulations promulgated by the United States Department of Agriculture, does not include an inspection for the presence of trichinæ in hogs, as it can not be determined with certainty by any known method of inspection whether pork is free from these parasites.